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PC

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/177,960 10/23/98 MAUROMMATI

I PHN16576

TM02/0327

EXAMINER

CORPORATE PATENT COUNSEL
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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173
DATE MAILED:

03/27/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

PC

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/177,960	MAUROMMATI ET AL.	
	Examiner Sy D Luu	Art Unit 2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 January 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some * c) None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:

1. received.

2. received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____.

3. received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to amendment A, filed 1/8/2001.
2. Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5 are independent claims.

This action is made Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steele et al. ("Steele", US # 5,742,779) in view of IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin ("IBM TDB", Vol. 35, Issue 4B, pp. 227-232; Sept. 1992).

As per claim 1, Steele teaches an information processing system comprising (figs 7A and 7B; col. 12, line 66 – col. 13, line 20): a display; processing means, arranged for displaying in a first field on the display a first sequence of first icons, and selecting means, arranged for selecting the selectable first icon, characterized in that the processing means are arranged for displaying, upon selection of the selectable first icon, in a second field on the display a second sequence of second icons, and that the selecting means are arranged for selecting the selectable second icon. Steele fails to teach the displaying of a sequence of icons in a timed loop and repeatedly making the currently displayed icon selectable to be applicable to both the first and second sequence of icons. This is what the IBM TDB teaches (pages 227-229; figs 1-2). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine the IBM TDB's

teaching with the system of Steele in order to provide a more compact presentation resulting in a more efficient use of screen real estate.

As per claims 2-4, as already addressed in previous paragraphs, the system of Steele and IBM TDB teaches the processing means to be arranged for displaying, upon selection of the selectable first or second icon, an information item in an output field on the display; wherein the information item comprises a sequence of information sub-items in a timed loop (Steele: figs 7A and 7B; col. 12, line 66 – col. 13, line 20; and IBM TDB: page 1, paragraphs 1-3 after the citation header; figs 1-2).

Claims 5-8 are similar in scope to claims 1-4 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale. ◎ ◎

Claims 9-10 are similar in scope to claim 4, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 5 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that neither Steele nor IBM TDB, individually or collectively, teach or suggest the sequential presentation of different sets of icons in different display areas, wherein different display areas are allocated to different hierarchy levels.

The examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

As detailed in the rejection, Steele teaches the allocation of different display areas are allocated to different hierarchy levels (figs 7A and 7B, col. 12, line 66- col. 13, line 20), and the

IBM TDB teaches the displaying of a sequence of icons in a timed loop and repeatedly making the currently displayed icon selectable to be applicable to the first and second sequence of icons (pages 227-229; figs. 1-2). It would have been obvious to combine the teachings in order to provide a more compact presentation which would results in a more efficient use of screen real estate.

Conclusion

6. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sy Luu whose telephone number is (703) 305-0409. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm (EST). The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Kim, can be reached on (703) 305-3821.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-6606.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Sy D. Luu
Patent Examiner
March 22, 2001



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173